

What is Claimed is:

- [c1] 1.A method for facilitating IT project development, comprising the steps of:
determining whether an IT project should be developed;
receiving IT project information relating to the IT project;
completing process steps for a plurality of required checklist items in a current stage, wherein the project development process includes a plurality of IT project development stages;
requesting tollgate approval for the current stage;
determining, for the current stage, whether the tollgate approval has been obtained and the IT project process should advance from the current stage to a next stage; and
advancing to the next stage if it is determined that the tollgate approval has been obtained for the current stage.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
progressing through a first stage relating to project definition;
progressing through a second stage relating to project measurement;
progressing through a third stage relating to operational analysis;
progressing through a fourth stage relating to solution design;
progressing through a fifth stage relating to building and testing;
progressing through a sixth stage relating to transitioning to the new system;
and
progressing through a seventh stage relating to production issues.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a first stage relating to project definition further comprises the steps of:
determining whether a first stage tollgate should be passed; and
permitting advancement to the second stage if it is determined that the first stage tollgate has been passed.
- [c4] 4.The method of claim 3, wherein the step of progressing through a first stage, further comprises the steps of:
completing a mission statement methodology element;
completing a cost/benefit analysis and budget sign-off methodology element;

completing a work management methodology element;
 completing a resource management methodology element; and
 completing a risk assessment methodology element,
 wherein each of the mission statement, cost/benefit analysis, work
 management, resource management, and risk assessment methodology
 elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and
 documentation relating the respective methodology elements.

[c5] 5.The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a second stage further comprises the steps of:
 determining whether a second stage tollgate should be passed; and
 permitting advancement to the third stage if it is determined that the second stage tollgate has been passed.

[c6] 6.The method of claim 5, wherein the step of progressing through a second stage, further comprises the steps of:
 completing a process maps, requirements and sign-off methodology element;
 completing a CTQ and critical process prioritization methodology element;
 completing a resource, schedule and scorecard status methodology element;
 completing a cost/benefit analysis and budget sign-off methodology element;
 and
 completing a definition of green belt projects methodology element,
 wherein each of the process maps, CTQ and critical process prioritization,
 resource, schedule and scorecard status, cost/benefit analysis, and definition of
 green belt projects methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs
 relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology
 elements.

[c7] 7.The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a third stage further comprises the steps of:
 determining whether a third stage tollgate should be passed; and
 permitting advancement to the fourth stage if it is determined that the third stage tollgate has been passed.

[c8] 8.The method of claim 7, wherein the step of progressing through a third stage,

further comprises the steps of:

completing a project management methodology element;

completing a fit and gap analysis methodology element; and

completing a defect ranking methodology element,

wherein each of the project management, fit and gap analysis, and defect ranking methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology elements.

[c9] 9. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a fourth stage further comprises the steps of:

- determining whether a fourth stage tollgate should be passed;
- permitting advancement to the fifth stage if it is determined that the fourth stage tollgate has been passed.

[c10] 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of progressing through a fourth stage, further comprises the steps of:

- completing a project management methodology element;
- completing a software design methodology element;
- completing a global development methodology element;
- completing an enterprise architecture methodology element;
- completing a testing methodology element;
- completing a support methodology element; and
- completing a peer reviews methodology element,

wherein each of the project management, software design, global development, enterprise architecture, testing, support, and peer reviews methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology elements.

[c11] 11. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a fifth stage further comprises the steps of:
determining whether a fifth stage tollgate should be passed; and
permitting advancement to the sixth stage if it is determined that the fifth stage tollgate has been passed.

[c12] 12.The method of claim 11, wherein the step of progressing through a fifth

stage, further comprises the steps of:

completing a project management methodology element;

completing a global development methodology element;

completing a testing methodology element;

completing a training methodology element;

completing a peer reviews methodology element; and

completing a contingency plans methodology element,

wherein each of the project management, global development, testing, training, peer reviews, and contingency plans methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology elements.

[c13] 13.The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a sixth stage further comprises the steps of:
determining whether a sixth stage tollgate should be passed; and
permitting advancement to the seventh stage if it is determined that the sixth stage tollgate has been passed.

[c14] 14.The method of claim 13, wherein the step of progressing through a sixth stage, further comprises the steps of:
completing a project management methodology element;
completing an enterprise architecture methodology element;
completing a support methodology element; and
completing a project team best practice and lessons learned methodology element,
wherein each of the project management, enterprise architecture, support, and project team best practice and lessons learned methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology elements.

[c15] 15.The method of claim 2, wherein the step of progressing through a seventh stage further comprises the steps of:
determining whether a seventh stage tollgate should be passed indicating; and
maintaining production if it is determined that the seventh stage tollgate has

been passed.

- [c16] 16.The method of claim 15, wherein the step of progressing through a seventh stage, further comprises the steps of:
- completing a project management methodology element;
 - completing an ongoing DFSS project plan methodology element; and
 - completing an enterprise architecture methodology element; and
 - completing a project team best practice and lessons learned methodology element,
- wherein each of the project management, ongoing DFSS project plan, enterprise architecture, and project team best practice and lessons learned methodology elements further comprise discrete sign-offs relating to tasks and documentation relating the respective methodology elements.
- [c17] 17.A system for facilitating development of IT projects, comprising:
- a server computer system for maintaining and serving a plurality of web pages relating to a project development methodology;
 - a client computer system associated with participants in a project and operatively connected to the server computer system over a computer network;
 - means for receiving a request from the client computer system to display a general project management methodology and tollgate selection web page;
 - means for displaying the requested general project management methodology and tollgate selection web page;
 - means for receiving a request from the client computer to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages; and
 - means for displaying the requested tollgate specific web page.
- [c18] 18.The system of claim 17, wherein the general project management methodology and tollgate selection web page is configured to include a description of the project management methodology and hyperlinks to a plurality of tollgate specific web pages.
- [c19] 19.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 1-specific web page relating to

project definition.

- [c20] 20.The system of claim 19, wherein the tollgate 1-specific web page comprises:
a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology
elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate
2; and
a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered
during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 1 methodology elements.
- [c21] 21.The system of claim 20, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may
each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for
completion.
- [c22] 22.The system of claim 21, wherein the tollgate 1-specific web page further
includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users
to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the
completion of the related task.
- [c23] 23. The system of claim of claim 20, wherein the plurality of methodology
elements, comprise:
a mission statement methodology element;
a cost/benefit analysis and budget sign-off methodology element;
a work management methodology element;
a resource management methodology element; and
a risk assessment methodology element.
- [c24] 24. The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to
display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises
means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 2-specific web page relating
to project measurements.
- [c25] 25.The system of claim 24, wherein the tollgate 2-specific web page comprises:
a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology
elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate
3; and
a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered

during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 2 methodology elements.

- [c26] 26.The system of claim 25, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.
- [c27] 27.The system of claim 26, wherein the tollgate 2-specific web page further includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.
- [c28] 28. The system of claim of claim 25, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
 - a process maps, requirements and sign-off methodology element;
 - a CTQ and critical process prioritization methodology element;
 - a resource, schedule and scorecard status methodology element;
 - a cost/benefit analysis and budget sign-off methodology element; and
 - a definition of green belt projects methodology element.
- [c29] 29.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 3-specific web page relating to operational analysis.
- [c30] 30.The system of claim 29, wherein the tollgate 3-specific web page comprises:
 - a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate 4; and
 - a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 3 methodology elements.
- [c31] 31.The system of claim 30, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.
- [c32] 32.The system of claim 31, wherein the tollgate 3-specific web page further

includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.

- [c33] 33. The system of claim of claim 30, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
a project management methodology element;
a fit and gap analysis methodology element; and
a defect ranking methodology element.
- [c34] 34.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 4-specific web page relating to solution design.
- [c35] 35.The system of claim 34, wherein the tollgate 4-specific web page comprises:
a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate 5; and
a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 4 methodology elements.
- [c36] 36.The system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.
- [c37] 37.The system of claim 36, wherein the tollgate 4-specific web page further includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.
- [c38] 38. The system of claim of claim 35, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
a project management methodology element;
a software design methodology element;
a global development methodology element;

an enterprise architecture methodology element;
a testing methodology element;
a support methodology element; and
a peer reviews methodology element.

- [c39] 39.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 5-specific web page relating to transition to project building and testing.
- [c40] 40.The system of claim 39, wherein the tollgate 5-specific web page comprises:
a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate 6; and
a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 5 methodology elements.
- [c41] 41.The system of claim 40, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.
- [c42] 42.The system of claim 41, wherein the tollgate 5-specific web page further includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.
- [c43] 43. The system of claim of claim 40, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
a project management methodology element;
a global development methodology element;
a testing methodology element;
a training methodology element;
a peer reviews methodology element; and
a contingency plans methodology element.
- [c44] 44.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display

a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 6-specific web page relating to production issues.

[c45] 45.The system of claim 44, wherein the tollgate 6-specific web page comprises: a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review and advancement to tollgate 7; and a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 6 methodology elements.

[c46] 46.The system of claim 45, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.

[c47] 47.The system of claim 46, wherein the tollgate 6-specific web page further includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.

[c48] 48. The system of claim of claim 45, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
a project management methodology element;
an enterprise architecture methodology element;
a support methodology element; and
a project team best practice and lessons learned methodology element.

[c49] 49.The system of claim 18, wherein the means for receiving a request to display a selected one of several tollgate-specific web pages, further comprises means for receiving a request to display a tollgate 7-specific web page relating to project measurements.

[c50] 50.The system of claim 49, wherein the tollgate 7-specific web page comprises: a deliverables and sign-offs section including a plurality of methodology elements to be addressed prior to tollgate review; and a review questions section including a listing of questions to be answered

during the fulfillment of any required tollgate 7 methodology elements.

[c51] 51.The system of claim 50, wherein the plurality of methodology elements may each further include sign-offs more specifically related to particular tasks for completion.

[c52] 52.The system of claim 51, wherein the tollgate 7-specific web page further includes a plurality of hyperlinks associated with sign-offs, for directing users to template documents, example documents or guides assisting in the completion of the related task.

[c53] 53. The system of claim of claim 50, wherein the plurality of methodology elements, comprise:
a project management methodology element;
an ongoing DFSS project plan methodology element; and
an enterprise architecture methodology element; and
a project team best practice and lessons learned methodology element.